U.S. Application No. 09/855,804 Examiner Jason E. Mattis Art Unit 2665
Response to November 22, 2004 Office Action

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121, below is a complete listing of all claims in the application.

1.   (Original) A system for routing an incoming call from a calling party for a telephone line of a subscriber comprising:

a service switching point associated with the telephone line; and

a service control point in communication with the service switching point,

wherein when the service switching point detects the incoming call, the service switching point launches a query comprising a subscriber number to the service control point,

wherein when the service control point receives the query, the service control point determines whether the calling party is a priority caller,

wherein the service control point returns a default response to the service switching point if the calling party is not a priority caller, and

wherein the service control point returns a priority response to the service switching point if the calling party is a priority caller.

2.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the query further comprises priority caller information.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the priority caller information is a telephone number associated with a second telephone line that is used by the calling party to initiate the incoming call.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the priority caller information is a priority code supplied by the calling party.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the default response comprises an instruction for the service switching point to terminate the call using a regular ringing tone and the priority response comprises an instruction for the service switching point to terminate the call using a priority alert signal.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the priority response comprises an instruction for the service switching point to initiate an outgoing call to another telephone associated with the subscriber.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the another telephone is a wireless telephone.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the service control point establishes a communication session with a computer associated with the subscriber via a computer network.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the communication session uses TCP/IP.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the communication session is a voice-over-Internet protocol session.

11.   (Original) A method for routing an incoming call from a calling party for a

telephone line of a subscriber comprising the steps of:

associating a subscriber number of the subscriber with priority caller information;

storing the subscriber number and the priority caller information in a database;

detecting the incoming call;

consulting the database to determine whether the incoming call comprises the priority caller information; and

executing a priority action if the incoming call comprises the priority caller information,

wherein the priority action comprises one or more of ringing a telephone associated with the telephone line with a priority alert signal that is different from a regular ringing tone; generating an outgoing call to another telephone associated with a second telephone line of the subscriber; generating an outgoing call to a wireless telephone of the subscriber via a wireless telephone network; and establishing a communication session with a computer associated with the subscriber via a computer network.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the priority caller information is a telephone number associated with a second telephone line that is used to initiate the incoming call.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the priority caller information is a priority code supplied by the calling party.

14.   (Original) A method for routing an incoming call from a calling party for a telephone line of a subscriber comprising the steps of:

associating a subscriber number of the subscriber with at least one priority caller

number;

storing the subscriber number and the at least one priority caller number in a

database;

detecting the incoming call;

consulting the database to determine whether the incoming call comprises the at

least one priority caller number; and

executing a priority action if the incoming call comprises the at least one priority

caller number.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the priority action comprises

playing a priority alert signal to alert the subscriber to the incoming call.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the priority action comprises

generating at least one outgoing call to one or more telephones associated with the

subscriber.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the priority action comprises

generating an outgoing call to a wireless telephone associated with the subscriber via a

wireless telephone network.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the priority action comprises

establishing a communication session with a computer associated with the subscriber via

a computer network.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the communication session uses TCP/IP.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the communication session uses voice-over-Internet protocol.

21.   (Original) A method for routing an incoming call from a calling party to a telephone line of a subscriber comprising the steps of:

associating a subscriber number of the subscriber with at least one priority code;

storing the subscriber number and the at least one priority code in a database;

soliciting the calling party for a priority code when the incoming call is received;

receiving the priority code from the calling party;

consulting the database to determine whether the priority code matches any of the at least one priority codes; and

executing a priority action if the priority code matches one of the at least one priority codes.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the priority action comprises playing a priority alert signal to alert the subscriber to the incoming call.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the priority action comprises generating at least one outgoing call to one or more telephones associated with the subscriber.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the priority action comprises

generating an outgoing call to a wireless telephone associated with the subscriber via a

wireless telephone network.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the priority action comprises

establishing a communication session with a computer associated with the subscriber via

a computer network.

26.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 ~~21~~, wherein the

communication session uses TCP/IP.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 ~~21~~, wherein the

communication session uses voice-over-Internet protocol.

28.   (New) A method comprising the steps of:

associating a subscriber number of the subscriber with priority caller information,

the priority caller information comprising a priority caller number and a priority caller

code;

storing the subscriber number and the priority caller information in a database;

detecting an incoming communication to a telephone line of a subscriber, the

telephone line comprising the subscriber number;

consulting the database to determine whether the incoming communication

comprises the priority caller information; and

executing a priority action if the incoming communication comprises the priority

caller information, the priority action comprising an action to ring a telephone associated

with the telephone line with a priority alert signal that is different from a regular ringing

tone, an action to generate an outgoing call to another telephone associated with another

telephone line, an action to generate an outgoing call to a wireless telephone associated

with the subscriber, and an action to establish a communication session with a computer

associated with the subscriber.